

which, hearing many times after, and always with new delight, has stamped Disraeli in my mind as the most wonderful talker I have ever had the fortune to meet. -He is anything but a declaimer. You would never think him on stilts. If he catches himself in a rhetorical sentence, **lie** mocks at it in the next breath. He is satirical, contemptuous, pathetic, humorous, everything in a moment. -Added to this that Disraeli's is the most intellectual face in England—pale, regular, and overshadowed with the most luxuriant masses of raven-black hair, and you will scarce wonder that meeting him for the first time Lord Durham was impressed. Disraeli and he formed at the moment a finely-contrasted picture. Understanding his game perfectly, the author deferred constantly and adroitly **to** the opinion of his noble listener, shaped his argument **try** his suggestions, allowed him to say nothing without using **it**; as the nucleus of some new turn to his eloquence, and all **"fciis"** with an apparent effort against it, as if he had desired **to** address himself exclusively to Lady Blessington, but was compelled by a superior intellectual magnetism to turn aside to pay homage to her guest. Without meaning such disrespect to Disraeli, whom I admire as much as any **xnan** in England, I remarked to my neighbour, a celebrated artist, that it would make a glorious drawing of Satan tempting an archangel to rebel.

Well, Disraeli is in Parliament, and Lord Durham on **lie** last round but one of the ladder of subject greatness. The Viceroy will be Premier, no doubt, but it is questionable if the author of *Vivian Grey* does more than carry **out** the moral of his own tale. Talking at a brilliant **~fca, tole**, with an indulgent and superb woman on the watch **for** wit and eloquence, and rising in the face of a cold, common-sense House of Commons on the look out for froth and humbug, **are** two different matters. In a great crisis, with the nation in a tempest, Disraeli would flash across the darkness very finely, but he will never do for the calm right hand of a

This testimony as to Disraeli's powers of conversation is confirmed in a less exuberant manner by another witness. ^c I frequently met Mr. Disraeli at Lady Blessington's,' - writes her biographer.

* N. P. "Willis — known among his countrymen, for reasons which **a, Tiy** reader of the above excerpt will understand, as 'Namby Pamby' •Willis — in the *New York Mirror* for Aug. 11, 1838.